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J. Robert Bray  
*Executive Director*

November 26, 2001

Colonel David L. Hansen  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Norfolk District  
803 Front Street  
Norfolk, Virginia 23510

NOV 29 1901

Re: Norfolk Harbor and Channels, Eastward Expansion of Craney Island, Feasibility Study

Dear Colonel Hansen:

The NEPA Technical Committee for the Craney Island Expansion Feasibility Study recommended at their meeting on October 24, 2001, that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the eastward expansion of Craney Island should include an evaluation of the environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of a port terminal. The Virginia Port Authority agrees with the committee's recommendation. However, it is our understanding that another year to eighteen months may be required to complete the study. This is troubling.

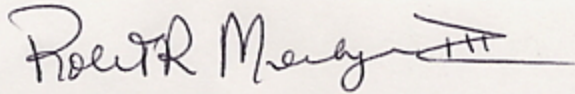
It is my understanding that the additional evaluation of the port terminal is only part of the feasibility study. Given that our design is still conceptual, we plan to provide a general discussion of the environmental impacts associated with the proposed terminal and a brief discussion of the alternative locations that have been considered. While I understand the discussion of the alternatives may warrant additional time, I am concerned that the Corps feels an additional year or more is needed to complete the study.



Before we commit to expanding the scope of the document, we respectfully ask that the Corps address, in some detail, the necessity for extending the project deadline from the current project completion date of May 2003 to possibly November 2004. This information will surely be needed to secure additional funding for expanding the study, if necessary.

We look forward to meeting with you soon. With best regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert R. Merhige, III", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert R. Merhige, III  
Deputy Executive Director &  
General Counsel

cc: J. Robert Bray, Executive Director  
James N. Thomasson, P.E., USACE  
Heather L. Wood, Environmental Program Manager, VPA  
Michael T. Crist, P.E., VPA Authorized Representative, Moffatt & Nichol Engineers